Enhancing the earning of Railways

†603. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the earning from passenger and goods trains during the last three years;

(b) whether Government is considering a new plan for enhancing it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The earning from Passenger and Goods traffic during the last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Passenger	Goods
2004-05	14112.54	30778.40
2005-06	15126.00	36286.97
2006-07	17224.56	41716.50

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have introduced a number of schemes like A slew of Freight Incentive Scheme has been launched this year for attracting more rail traffic like;

Traditional Empty Flow Direction (30% discount), Loading Bagged Consignment in BOXN (40% discount), Long term Special Incentive Scheme (20% concession), Incremental Traffic (15% discount), Lump sum Special Rates and Service Level Agreement, Freight Forwarders, Two Leg Freight Concession (15% in busy season and 20% in lean season).

Besides, Ministry of Railways has been considering individual proposal for grant of Freight Concession in Freight Rates to tap traffic. Few proposals are as:

30% concession of booking of Iron-ore, 50% concession for rice traffic, 15% concession for timber waste and 13% concession on movement of gunny bale or jute traffic.

For passenger traffic following steps have been taken to increase the earnings: Generating additional seating capacity in trains by introducing new trains, reduction of fare of 1st AC and 2nd AC, attaching additional coaches to clear wait listed passengers and introduction of upgradation scheme to upgrade full fare paying passenger to next higher class against available accommodation.

Income of Railways from foreign tourists

†604. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the earning of the Railways from foreign tourists during the last two years;

(b) whether Government is considering a special plan to attract foreign tourists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The total earnings from passenger traffic of the railways is as under:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(In crores of Rs.)

Railways	2005-06	2006-07
Passenger Earning	15126	17225

The above figure is inclusive of the earnings from foreign tourists. However no separate accountal is kept of earnings from foreign tourists.

(b) and (c) "No Sir. However, in order to attract the foreign tourists, Indian Railways introduced Indrail Pass Scheme in the year 1977 as a tourism promotion measure. These passes are issued to the foreign nationals and Non Resident Indians (NRIs) against payments in the US dollars. The pass holder is entitled to travel throughout the Indian Railways' Network within the period of its validity in a class it is issued for. Further, Indian Railways also run five luxury tourist trains for tourists including foreign tourists *i.e.* Palace on Wheels, Heritage on Wheels in Rajasthan sector, Steam Safari Train-the Fairy Queen on Delhi-Alwar sector, Deccan Odyssey in Maharashtra Sector and Mahaparinirvan Express covering places related to Buddhism. In addition to above, two new luxury tourist trains in Karnataka and Rajasthan may also be launched shortly. One luxury tourist train in the Punjab Sector has also been approved. These luxury tourist train facilities are availed by foreign tourists."

Revenue loss due to ticketless travelling

605. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway authorities are aware about the unauthorised forceful entry of ticketless travellers and general ticket holders in reserved compartments;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during 2007 and the loss of revenue to Railways alongwith amount of penalties recovered therefrom, zone-wise;

(c) whether the Travelling Ticket Examiners and other security personnel behave as silent spectators to such unlawful acts and never discharge their duties;

(d) if so, the reaction of the railways thereto; and

(e) the steps taken by Railways to stop these activities in reserved compartments in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Some cases come to notice from time to time.

(b) No separate statistics regarding number of unauthorized entry of passengers in reserved coaches is maintained. However the details of number of persons detected travelling without ticket/irregular travel including unauthorized travelling in reserved coahces and the amount realized including penalties from them during the regular checks conducted in the year 2007 (January to September, 2007) is enclosed as Statement (*See* below). The loss of revenue on this account is not quantifiable.

(c) and (d) The railway staff including ticket checking staff and the Railway Protection Force staff accompanying the trains are taken up as and when they are found lacking in discharging their duties properly.

(e) The following steps have been taken in this regard:

(i) The minimum penalty for ticketless/irregular travel has been increased from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 250/- with effect from 01.07.2004.